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SHOES said. "You weren't looking for me so early, were you, now? Well, I'm going to take the train for Proctor's going up to see Libbie-and I thought I'd ses of Children, Obstetries, Fevers Satchels and Telescopes, Watches and drop in. Didn't know but I might have Whiskey, Morphine, Opium and Tobacco Jewelry, Umbrelias, Parasols and Mu- a postal or something from her, telling sical Instruments, Hats, Caps and me to wait till next week."

> returned Mabel. WE MAKE SPECIALITIES "Well, I didn't know, you know. You

"No. I've been up an hour and a half."

"You don't tell me! Well, I think you have to get up too early, that's what I think. Seems as if Blodgett might stir out and open the place him-

self, 'specially as you have to stay so late at night."

that body and the other body that want their letters, and forty other things-I declare 'twould just pester the life out of me in no time at all."

"Well, I must be getting along," continued Mrs. Allison. "Are you going on the excursion next week?" "I'm afraid I can't get away," an-

wered the girl. Mrs. Allison was rummaging in her hand bag, and her attention seemed dis-

said that she could not afford to go on the excursion, whatever the fact might | ing you the truth about who I am, and be. She had told the simple truth in saying that she might not be able to leave the office, even if she knew she her ground at the window. could not go on the excursion if it were could not resent what had been said,

office pays," she answered.

returned Mrs. Allison, moving toward | cents to me." the door. "But Blodgett is no poor man, and his mill pays him right along. | said.

THE COUNTRY NEWSPAPER. chair by the desk, but the smile was all gone. the old country weekly-how dearly I love it!

ings
Of kinsman and neighbor so tersely are told; The births, deaths and accidents, weddings

But there was no time for gloomy thoughts, for the boy was back with a | back my money." mail bag, and people were beginning to drop in more and more frequently.

do-drove away the gloomy thoughts. But she was not to be allowed to forget the excursion, as several of her girl friends who came to the office asked gether irregular thing for me to do." her if she were going. She answered them as she had answered Mrs. Allison, being disturbed.

Other reasons made her feel her lack | money-I'll trust you even if you don't of money much more than this excur- want to trust me." sion. Mabel's father had died five years before, leaving his family in poor cir-cumstances. Her mother's health was give me the letter." not good, and there were two younger sisters and a little brother who were still in school. She had been willing to work hard and deny herself much to of dollars if I miss that contract." Even the post office stood alone, at least a hundred yards from the nearest to stay in school so long as she did, had not her mother worked hard and denied | come back to bother you. Give me the herself.

When she had left school, and taken up the first work which presented itself, it had been with the determination to keep her younger brother and sisters in school as long as possible. To the post office. Geographically, it might be isolated, but in another sense eic, which she had cared for so much. It efc, which she had cared for so much. It was no wonder, perhaps, that she sighed as she thought how little of all that she wanted to do she could hope to accomplish on the meager salary she was receiving.

It was a little after three o'clock on sistant postmaster could very well testify, and she used to think sometimes stranger entered the Downingville post Mabel was alone. She noticed, as the man stepped up to the general delivery, that he was well dressed, and perhaps between 25 and 30 years of age. His face was not a pleasant one, although it did not suggest a lack of intelligence. He came close to the window and said:

Such a letter had come on the latest mail, and Mabel had placed it in the safe which stood in the corner. She anperhaps hard in one sense, was cer- swered him in the affirmative, when he

"That is my name-M. P. Morganstone. Please let me have it." "days off" were few, and the salary was "The rules require identification in meager enough; but Mabel never com- the case of registered letters, you

plained, and she did the work to the know," answered Mabel. "Oh, yes; I had forgotten. Well, I It was a beautiful September morn-ing; she had just finished putting up am a stranger here, but I can show you and assuring her mother, who stood who I am all right." He searched his pale and frightened, that the patient the 6:24 mail, and the boy who carried it to the station had departed. Only two or three persons had as yet been in, he pushed through the window. "There two cars came from a crowd of peo-Men's, Youth's and Boys Ready-Made so Mabel was surprised to see Mrs. All- you see, miss.—M. P. Morganstone, watertown. Just give me the letter— "There," said the doctor, "you're goit's very important for me to catch the

uptrain "But I can't give out a registered letter on such identification. Blodgett, the postmaster, has instructed me not to do so."

Mabel's suspicions were beginning to be slightly aroused by one thing about the man. Twice since coming up to the window he had glanced over his shoulder at the door. She knew, of can't tell. But I suppose this doesn't seem early for you?" course, that it was her duty to deliver the letter if he could fully convince her that it belonged to him; but she deternined to insist on identification of the strictest kind, as a matter of protection to herself and her employer.

"Why, see here, I've got lots of registered letters on less identification than this, and at larger offices," the man said. "You're going beyond the

If he delivers one to the wrong person the rightful owner can hold him accountable. Mr. Blodgett is very par-ticular. He has told me to deliver no such letters to strangers except on identification such as would be satisfactory at a bank. You must know that there you would have to be vouched for by some one known to the bank peo-"I can describe the letter," went on

the man, ignoring what she had said. "Large, oblong envelope. From J. H. Smith, Riverside. Mailed this morning. Isn't that right?"

"Yes, but I can't let you have it without proper identification." Mabel was becoming more suspicious of the man every moment. His disappointment and worry over the situation seemed to be bringing his true character to the surface, and his face and manner were rapidly growing less gentlemanly.

"Why, I never saw anything like this. Do you know I can make trouble for you with the department for holding back my letter? You know I am tellyou have no right to delay the mail." Mabel made no reply at all, but held

"Now, see here, miss, no foolishness. possible for her to be absent; but she | I'm a business man, and my time is worth money. I'm a contractor, and because she knew the woman had not that letter contains papers valuable to me, but of no value to anyone else. "I think he gives me all that he could | Plans and specifications of a new facbe expected to, considering what the tery I'm bidding for over at Watertown. Give it to me, and let me entch "Well, maybe he does, inthat light," my train. It is a matter of dollars and

"I cannot do it," was all that Mabel

AT HERALD OFFI CE with a rather sad smile, as Mrs. Allishoulder. He hesitated a moment, and | well."-Tit-Bits.

son went out. Then she sat down in her then with a little forced laugh, went on

"Of course maybe you're right as "I'm afraid there aren't many excur- cording to the strict rule. I don't want sions for me this summer," she mused, you to get into any trouble on my nesomewhat ruefully. "I presume Mr. count. I'll show you in another way Blodgett would stay here that day if I that I am telling you the truth. I'm asked him, but I know I couldn't afford going to be in town again in about a to go. Besides, I haven't any dress to week. I'll just deposit ten dollars with wear that's suitable. I wish I could letter, and if you find it's all right, as Renova, Pa., Has Roads Which Would you will by that time, you can give me

"No, there is no rule authorizing any

such thing." money back?"

"Perhaps not, but it would be an alto-"Why, you're unreasonable," cried the man, again beginning to lose his and it made her a little angry to feel that her face flushed each time; for from his pocket, and laid it down in the although none of them said what her window. "I'll make it \$100, yes, \$200," first caller had said, she felt sure that and he pushed in four \$50 bills. "Pil they all thought it. She was ashamed of the feeling, but she could not help letter instantly. Give it to me! Never mind about writing a receipt for the

> "I can't do it." "Here, take a ten for yourself and

"Take \$50, then. Reep it—do what you please with it. I'll lose thousands

"Take the whole \$200! You can use Nobody will ever know. I'll never letter!" and he pushed the money in so that it almost fell to the floor.

Mabel pushed it back, saying: will do you no good to make me any such offers. You cannot have the letter till you are properly identified."

"I will have it," he fairly shouted, ing around to the side toward the door through which access was had to the interior, and which had been left ajar by the boy who had taken the mail sack. But Mabel was too quick for him, and pushed it shut in his face.

The spring lock clicked, and she caught her breath with a feeling of relief; but he threw himself against the door heavily, shattering the catch and sending the door back on its hinges with a crash. The edge just struck her forehead, and everything began to turn black before her eyes; but there stood the safe door open. She sprang toward it, knowing as she did so that

she just missed the man's grasp. The heavy door went shut with a dull bump. With one hand she turned the handle which threw the bolts, and with the other spun round the combination

ng to be all right now. You can go home in my carriage. I'll go along.' "Did-did he get the letter?" asked

Mabel, feebly. "Never mind about the letter," said the doctor. "We'll tell you about that to-morrow. We'll just take you home now."

They carried her out to the easy carriage which was waiting. As shedrove away she heard balf the population of the village, gathered at the office in full force, set up a cry of "Three cheers for Mabel!" and they were given with a

peared he had good reason for running away, since he was the accomplice of some burglar at Riverside who had sent him a large sum of money, stolen the night before, in the letter, fearing immediate arrest themselves. This had been established by the Riverside officers, who had arrested the men, including the one who had come to the office, that morning, and by a post office inspector who had taken possession

A week later Mabel was back in the office. Mr. Blodgett said to her the first

"The folks here have been talking the matter over, and have decided on giving you a slight reward in the shape of a purse of money in recognition of what you did the other day. Some of them are coming in after awhile, and I thought I'd tell you so you wouldn't

be too much surprised."
"They're very kind," said Mabel, instantly, "but I couldn't take anything. You please tell them so, and stop their coming. I didn't do anything more that day than my duty, and I couldn't take any reward for that; but you can

But three weeks later a big official envelope came, addressed to her own name. It was a letter, and the commission from the post office department, appointing Mabel Loomis postmistress at Downingville, vice J. P. Blodgett, resigned.-Youth's Companion.

Different Sweeping. "Mrs. Higgins, I never saw a woman

grace as your lovely daughter." "I wish my lovely daughter would sweep out the parlor occasionally, and the dining-room and the bedrooms as

Make Any Wheelman's Hair Stand on End.

The accompanying picture is the main street of Renova, Pa., where, ac-She plunged carnestly into the work before her, which—as work will always wouldn't do that if 1 didn't know it cording to a correspondent, "the only would be all right, and I'd get my efforts made for good roads have consisted in hauling mud from one place and depositing it in another." A local paper sareastically remarks that "the



streets can walt" in preference to continuing the "patch-work jobs there that only make them worse." The wheelman's lot there cannot be a par-"the borough council prehibited riding on the sidewalks in muddy weather, so we are compelled to store our wheels about one-third of the season."—Good Roads. snatching back the money and hurry- on the sidewalks in muddy weather, so

GOOD ROADS NOTES.

The farmers of Missouri have organized improved roads committees in every county in the state. Highways which are rendered im-

passable by ordinary rains-and there are many of them-are not fit to be The business men of Bueyrus, O., have organized for the purpose of adopting a system of improving the roads

Narrow tires and mud roads should speedily be sent, hand in hand, as it were, "glimmering through the dream of things that were." The Mercantile club of Wyandotte

in that vicinity.

county, Kan., recently passed resolu-tions favoring good road laws, and will work for the same at this session of the legislature. The Grand Rapids (Mich.) Herald, very pertinently observes that the board of trade of that city could con-

sistently take a hand in the good roads movement. An argument offered for the employment of prisoners in building roads is that the fear of such public degradation vill deter from the commission of petty crimes, and will lessen the incursion of

tramps into a community. The cycling associations of Chicago, which have formed an alliance for securing better legislation, have practically decided to drop for the present the fight against the cycle baggage law and confine their efforts to a move

for good roads. Road-building by county-jall inmates is to be undertaken in Onelda county, N. Y. This is following the example in Warren and St. Lawrence counties, where the plan is in successful operation, even at a distance of six or eight

miles from the fail. Under the Higbie good roads law, of New York, eight miles of stone road can now be built at a cost of only \$1,800 to the property owners. The whole cost is \$12,000, of which the county has the near-by woods, and that it now ap- to pay \$4,200, the state \$6,000, and th

property owners the balance.-Good Rend Drainage That Drains.

One authority on the subject of road draining claims that in prairie soil a good road can be obtained for 11 months in the year by simply putting in a good system of tile drainage, slightly round ing the road bed and sowing grass seed that the roots may aid the drainage. If the road surface is to perform the service of a roof it must be protected from the action of the narrow wagon wheels. A sharp turn is always in beter condition than the straight portions of the road. A little thought shows at once that this is due to the fact that the front and rear wheels do not follow each other and therefore do not form ruts. A slight difference in the length of the front and rear axles of wagons with the use of wide tires would accomplish more for roads, considering the expense involved, than any other one thing.-Western Plowman.

Burning of Muck Soils.

It is frequently found that muck soils, even after the most careful draining, are still unproductive. The fer-friends and the public. We shall carry in stock a large and varied line of tilizing matter which they contain is in unavailable condition for plants. A common practice in Ireland and in European countries is to pare the surface and after drying to burn the organic matter. This practice of burning has been condemned as exhausting the soil, but without good reason. The burning should not extend more than 12 to 16 inches, and it destroys very little available food plant. It is recommended as one of the quickest methods of putting muck soils into condition for the growth of ccops.-Drainage Journal.

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every shoe you buy. J. B. LEWIS CO., Boston, Mass.



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THE POSTMISTRESS AT DOWNINGVILLE

By Hayden Corruth

A THE STATE OF THE

教育教育的表現在在在自然的政治學的學術

The old country paper I read when a boy. W. H. T. Shade.

DOWNINGVILLE was a village of magnificent distances, with almost a half mile from the tannery to the sawmill, and with only scattering houses between. The schoolhouse and the two churches had each failed to establish a center. Likewise the railroad station had not attracted any noticeable number of houses; it stood, like everything else, by itself. There were gardens or cow pastures or public commons or other tracts of unoccupied

territory between the buildings. house, with a corner of Squire Pomeroy's wood-lot coming up almost to its back door, as if refusing to recognize such a straggling place as a town at all.

But, after all, if there was a spot that one might point to and say: "This is the center of Downingville," it was it was a center, and held Downingville together. Everybody had to come there for the mail, and there was certainly no other place where everybody had to go for anything. But that everybody did come to the post office the asthat the folks who got the least came

Mr. Blodgett was the postmaster, but

he ran the village grist mill-which was

far from everything else, of course-

and seldom visited the office for a stay

of any great length. So it happened that practically the entire work of the office fell upon his assistant. She was office fell upon his assistant. She was
Mabel Loomis, who lived with her mother a quarter of a rule up the mothmorganstone here?" er a quarter of a mile up the road on the uncertain edge of the village. The work of the office, although not tainly exacting, and the hours were continued: long-from six in the morning to seven in the evening, usually. Vacations and

"Why, good morning, Mabel!" she

best of her ability.

"No, there isn't anything for you,"

"He comes in at noon, you know, and stays quite awhile. Then, the work ter is responsible for registered letters. "Well, it may not be hard, but I should say that it's wearing, if I'm a judge. Sorting over letters and pounding them with that thing, and filling out money orders and tearing them off bias and just so, and fixing the registered letters and selling stamps, and jumping up to this window for this body and

"Oh, I don't mind it," returned Mabel, cheerfully.

"Seems as if Blodgett ought to pay you more," she said. Mabel's face flushed. She had not

meant any offense.

What I'd like, is to see you appointed postmaster yourself. You're 21 now."

The man by this time was growing very red in the face, and was glancing "Oh, thank you," answered Mabel, more nervously than ever over his

Mabel only shook her head.

knob. Then the darkness became complete, and she remembered no more. The next thing she heard was a confused murmur of voices. Then she opened her eyes and saw that she was still in the post office, lying on the dis-tributing table. Dr. Roberts, the village physician, was bending over her,

The next afternoon she was able to alt up at home. Mr. Blodgett came and congratulated her on what she had done. He told her that after she had become unconscious the man had escaped by running across the field to

thank them for me, please." Mr. Biodgett went out and she took up the old work. She heard no more about the reward.

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